

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJECT: POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM

THE COUNTRY TEAM OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM:

1. IN IMPLEMENTING THE CONTROL PROGRAM TO DATE, THE GOT HAS NOT RPT NOT YET MADE PROGRESS IN IMPROVING COORDINATION AMONG THE VARIOUS AGENCIES INVOLVED (I.E., TMO, JANDARMA AND TNP). THE JANDARMA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOT RPT NOT YET ACTED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION FOR ESTABLISHING A JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER.

2. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE IN A PERIOD OF DRIFT UNDER THE PRESENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. THE EXPECTATION IN POLITICAL CIRCLES HERE IS THAT THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RPT NOT LAST MUCH LONGER, THEREFORE, IT IS UNWILLING TO MAKE TOUGH DECISIONS ON POPPIES OR ANY OTHER MAJOR ISSUES.

3. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING NETWORK IN THE POPPY REGION ALMOST CERTAINLY DEPENDS UPON GOOD BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND THE GOT. WHILE THE UN
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SHOULD CONTINUE TO PLAY THE PRINCIPAL ROLE IN URGING THE TURKS

TO SET UP AN INTELLIGENCE NETWORK, AS A PRACTICAL MATTE, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAM WILL DEPEND PRIMARILY ON HAVING A GOOD COOPERATIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND THE GOT. HOWEVER, DEA ANKARA OFFICERS HAVE BEEN UNABLE THUS FAR TO MEET WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE JANDARMA IN ORDER TO DISCUSS VARIOUS PROPOSALS FOR AN INTELLIGENCE STRUCTURE. GRANTED THAT THE JANDARMA MAY BE IN A HOLDING PATTERN AWAITING RESOLUTION OF THE ONGOING GOVERNMENT CRISIS, AT LEAST TWO OTHER FACTORS MAY BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE JANDARMA'S APPARENT RELUCTANCE TO MEET WITH DEA OFFICIALS: (A) PREOCCUPATION WITH PUTTING DOWN RECENT CIVIL DISORDERS WHICH HAVE STRUCK A NUMBER OF PROVINCES IN EASTER TURKEY; AND (B) HESITATION TO APPEAR OVERLY COOPERATIVE AFTER RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF TURKEY'S POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM BY HIGH-LEVEL DEA OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

4. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE GOT'S WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH US IN POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM WILL LIKELY DEPEND UPON THE OVERALL STATE OF US-TURKISH RELATIONS, WHICH HAVE TAKEN A NEGATIVE TURN IN THE WEEKS FOLLOWING THE CUTOFF OF US MILITARY AID ON FEBRUARY 5. ONE POTENTIAL BENEFIT OF ANY FUTURE IMPROVEMENT IN US-TURKISH RELATIONS, THEREFORE, COULD BE INCREASED BILATERAL COOPERATION ON THE POPPY QUESTION. WITHOUT SUCH COOPERATION, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR DEA OFFICERS TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOT'S POPPY CONTROL SYSTEM.

5. BASED ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT OFICIALS HERE, IT APPEARS THAT THE SOIL PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO) MAY ATTEMPT THE KIND OF BUREAUCRATIC "EMPIRE BUILDING" WHICH WOULD ADD UNNECESSARILY TO THE GOT'S OPERATING COSTS FOR THE POPPY CONTROL PROGRAM. THEREFORE, WE BELIEVE THE UN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOT REGARDING A POSSIBLE COMPENSATION FUND AS A CONTINGENCY ARRANGEMENT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE QUESTION OF PRICE TO FARMER. IF THE GOT EXPECTS TO RECOVER SOME PORTION OF ADDITIONAL COSTS (IF ANY) INCURRED BY THE POPPY CONTROL PROCEDURES OUT OF PROCEEDS FROM POPPY STRAW SALES, THIS AMOUNT SHOULD BE HELD WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS.
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